THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHANA HEGDE): (a) The total quantity and value of Basmati and Non-basmati rice exported during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (Apr.-Sept, 98) are as follows:

Quantity lakh MTs
Value in Rs. Lakhs

Year	Basmati		Non-Basmati	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1996-97	5.23	124764	19.89	192472
1997-98	5.82	167435	17.22	160038
1998-99 (Apr.-Sept, 98)	3.13	94639	16.93	166836
1997-98 (Apr.-Sept.)	2.81	76387	6.90	67074

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(b) It is not possible to accurately assess the likely effect exports of rice would have on the prices of rice in the domestic market, as the exports of rice would depend upon international demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preferences, and other terms of trade.

(c) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of rice include, inter-alia conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

(d) The major competitors for rice export, besides Pakistan are Thailand, USA, Vietnam and Myanmar.

(e) Some of the countries which import rice from India are Saudi Arabia, UAE, UK, Kuwait, Bangladesh, Sri Lanks South Africa, Russia, Nigeria and Somalia.

Black-Listing of Indian Companies by USA

1555. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to take up the issue of U.S. Government's decision to black-list more than two hundred Indian establishments for doing business;

(b) whether this issue has been taken up with U.S. Government during last round to talks held in Rome from 19th November, 1998;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) The US Administration announced on 13th November, 1998 a list of Indian entities which will be covered by export restrictions. The Government of India issued a statement on November 14, 1998 that this as a highly unfortunate development. These restrictions interfere with the free flow of trade, technology & finance and have an adverse impact on mutually beneficial business interaction. This decision reflects the continuation of a coercive approach that is entirely misplaced and counter-productive. Such steps are unhelpful for meaningful discussions towards an improvement in bilateral relations, which is desired by both countries.

The sixth round of ongoing bilateral discussions between Union Minister for External Affairs and Deputy Chairman of

the Planning Commission, Shri Jaswant Singh and US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott was recently held in Rome on November 19-20, 1998. The two sides reviewed issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation, bilateral relations as well as regional and international developments. The two sides also discussed and positively evaluated the report on expert level meeting on export controls between Indian and American delegations in New Delhi on November 9-10, 1998. The Indian delegation raised its concerns about the recently published entities list and our access to international financial institutions. Both sides agreed to meet again in January 1999 in New Delhi.

Expansion of Border Trade in North East

1556. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for expansion of border trade in North East and other regions; and

(b) if so, to which countries and the estimates regarding volume of the trade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

The Government has border Trade with Myanmar and China. In respect of Myanmar, Border Trade is taking place in Manipur through land route on the Indo-Myanmar Border at Moreh/Tamu. Border trade with China is carried out through two points viz. Lipulekh Pass, Gunji in Uttar Pradesh and Shipkila Pass in Himachal Pradesh.

Another point on the Indo-Myanmar border i.e. Champhai has been identified for border trade which is likely to become operational soon. For promoting trade with Bangaladesh, a Group of Experts of India and Bangladesh is being set up to examine and make recommendation on issues such as points of entry, amount of tradable produce, terms of payment, quantitative limits and customs and immigration modalities.

(b) The volume of Border Trade with Myanmar and China during the period 1997-98 is as under:—

	Myanmar	China
Export from India	Rs. 25,16,67,199	Rs. 27,28,222
Imports into India	Rs. 37,16,40,921	Rs. 68,64,446

Volume and Value of Onion Exports

1557. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume and value (in rupees as well as U.S. dollars) of export of onions from the country in 1997-98 and the first half of 1998-99;

(b) the total volume and value of imports of onions during the same period; and

(c) the parties principally involved in exporting and importing onions during these periods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The total quantity and value of onions exported during 1997-98 and 1998-99 (April-August) is as under:

Year	Qty (Mts)	Value (Rs. Crores)	Value (US$million)
1997-98*	332769	202.45	54.47
1998-99* (April-August)	139707	117.22	28.23

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta *provisional)